

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. The pending claims have been revised to be consistent with the invention (Species A) elected for prosecution.

The rejection of claims 21 and 22 as being anticipated by Nakatsuji et al (EP 0 624 393 - Nakatsuji) is traversed. Claims 21 and 22 recite a catalyst comprising iridium and sulfur. The only iridium containing catalyst disclosed in Nakatsuji (see Example B-33) does not have sulfur. Accordingly, Nakatsuji does not does not anticipate claims 21 and 22.

The rejection of claims 18-23 as being obvious over Lauder (U.S. Patent No. 4,049,583) in view of Shigeru et al. (Japanese Patent Publication 7-80315 - Shigeru) is traversed.

Lauder discloses a catalyst that lacks sulfur. The catalyst disclosed by Lauder has an ABO_3 crystal structure, wherein the Type A sites have an ion radii of 0.8 to 1.65 angstroms and at least 1% of these A sites are occupied by mutually different cations. The Type B sites have an ion radii of 0.4 to 1.4 angstroms and are occupied, at least in part, by ions of platinum group metals. The platinum group metals are part of the catalyst crystal structure. The remaining sites of Type B in the ABO_3 crystal structure are occupied by ions of non-platinum group metals having ionic radii between about 0.4 and 1.4 Å.

The catalyst recited by method claims 18 to 23 have sulfur and do not have the special ABO_3 crystal structure as does the catalyst of Lauder. Indeed, the catalyst recited in claims 18-23 is not incorporated into a crystal structure but is rather has iridium

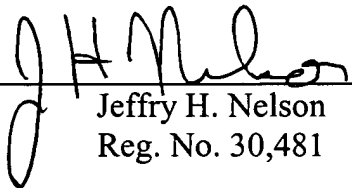
deposited on metallic sulfate. Accordingly, the catalyst and catalyst structure of the present application is totally different from the catalyst of Lauder.

Shigeru does not disclose a catalyst including a metallic sulfate having iridium deposited thereon. Shigeru discloses a catalyst for a solid-state, hyper-strong acid. There is no suggestion, teaching or motivation evident from the prior art to combine Lauder and Shigeru to create the claimed invention. Further, it is evident that when compositions are deposited on a catalyst the effects vary in accordance with the makeup of the compositions in unpredictable ways. The characteristics and desirability of the present invention would not have been evident to a person of ordinary skill in the art based on the crystal catalyst disclosed in Lauder and the catalyst on a substrate disclosed in Shigeru. Further, in view of the uncertainties in this art, it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to form the claim invention based on the teachings of applied prior art.

The rejections for anticipation of obviousness should be withdrawn. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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